



# Tourism Destination Evolution

## *Some thoughts on 'moments' in evolutionary paths*

Salvador Anton Clavé / Julie Wilson / Cinta Sanz-Ibáñez

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# 1 'Moments' in the path metaphor

**Path dependence** has been a concern of economists and economic geographers, while those in urban social geography have started to engage with the idea, talking about urban change.

Moulaert *et al* (2007) talk about discursive, **selective 'moments' in urban socio-economic change** and path dependence [including policies / key agencies]

**In tourism evolutionary approaches**, Baggio & Sainaghi (2011) pointed out the effects of 'triggering events'; Ritchie *et al.* (2013) analysed the impact of 'crisis-related events'; Mariotti & Zirulia (2014) approaches to 'shocks' at a local scale; Hall (2014) deals with the notion of 'critical events'...

**What role do 'moments' have in change?**

## 2 'Moments' from an evolutionary perspective

Perhaps more attention should be paid to what happens between the trajectory's start and end points? ***'Join the dots'***

Further, is it pertinent to conceptualise the ***various*** 'moments' over the course of destination evolution, in addition to a given evolutionary trajectory?

### 3 'Moments' as evolutionary *inflection points*

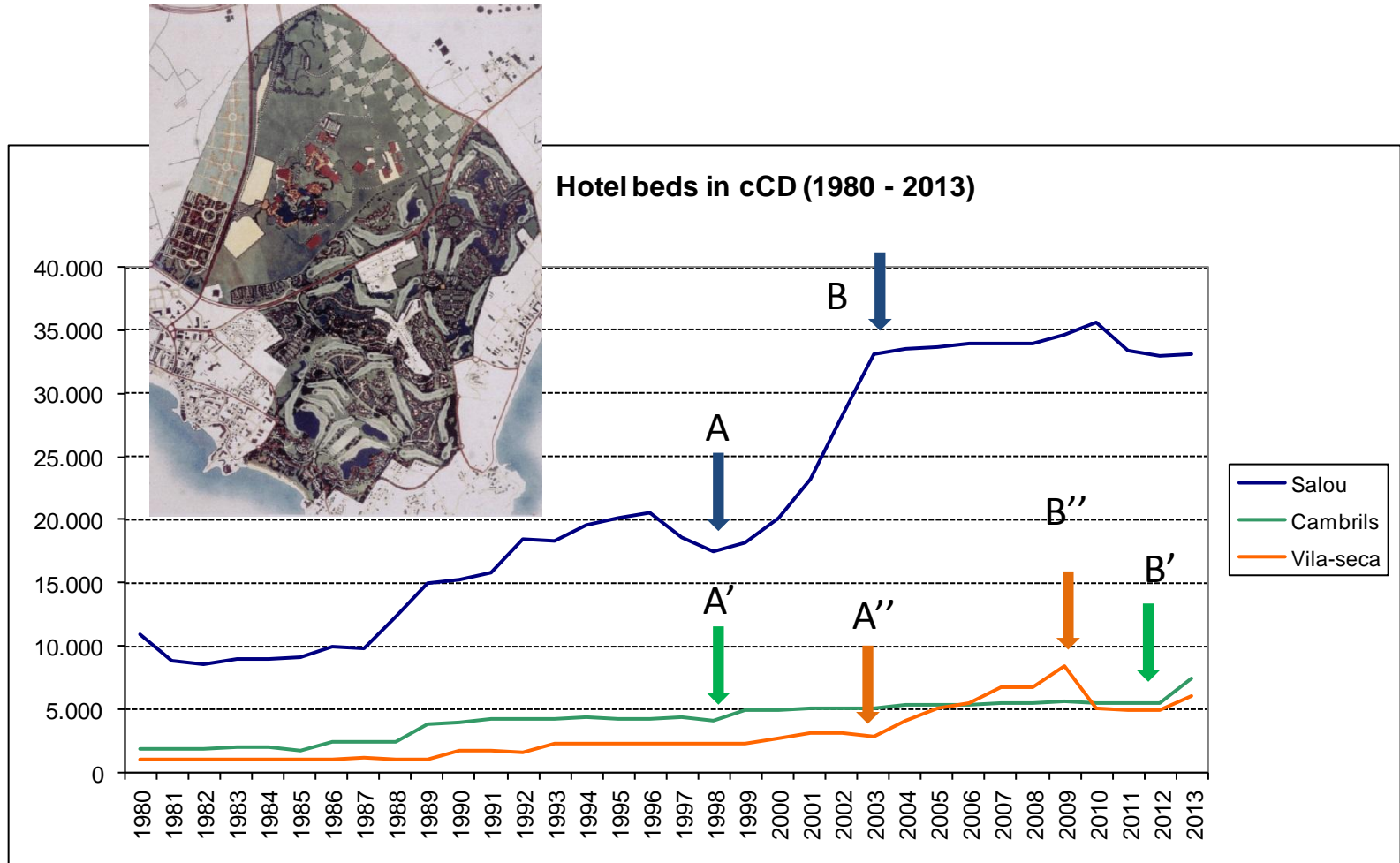
In differential calculus, an **inflection point** is a point on a curve at which the curvature or concavity changes sign from plus to minus or from minus to plus.

'Moment' as *inflection point* from an evolutionary approach is a **catalyst for change** in the economic /social urban development pathway...

Are some 'moments' **path-creating, while others are path-plastic?** Like switching a light on or off (creation) or like an ocean liner changing course? (plasticity)

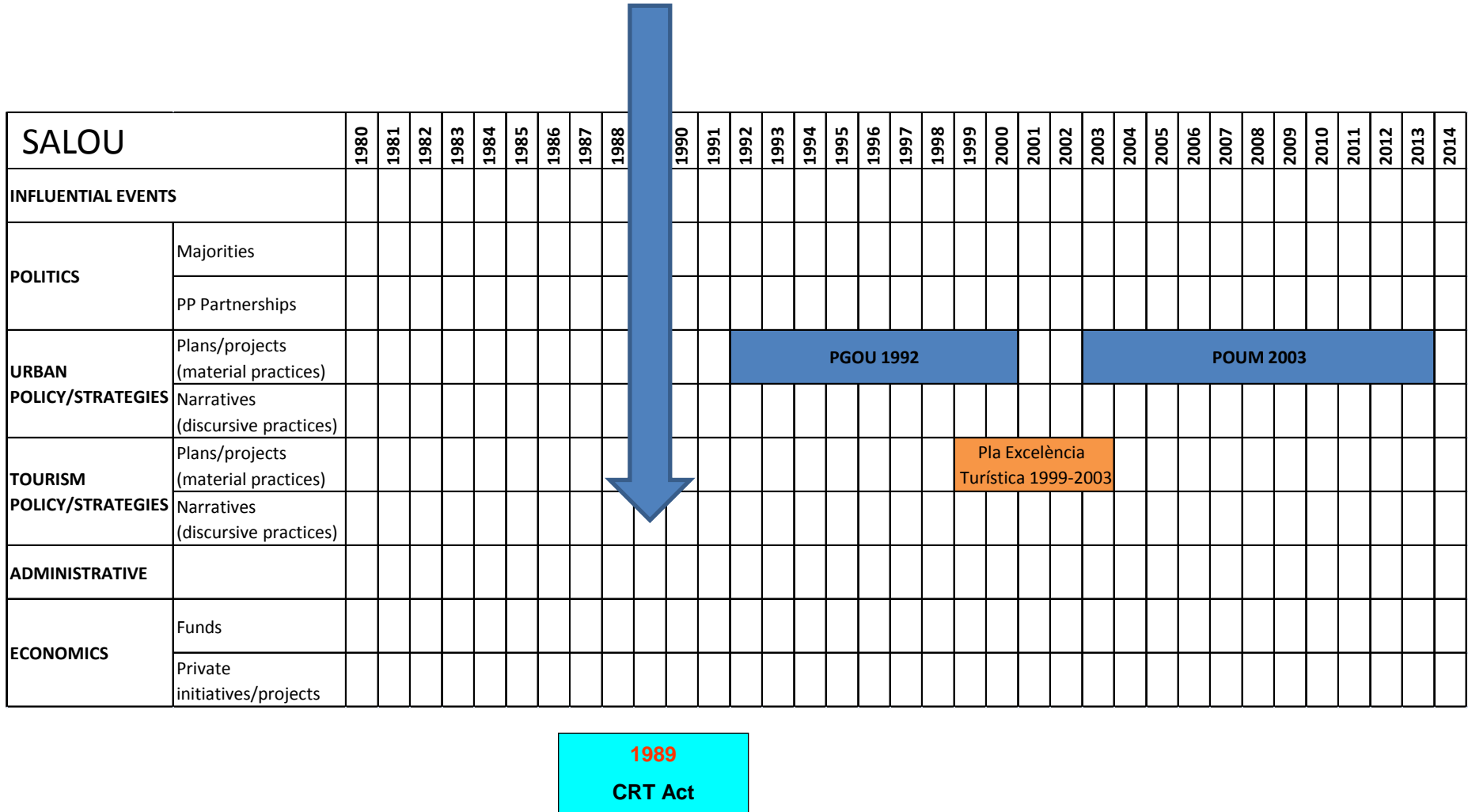
But... most moments appear to be **binary**, comprising **causative *triggers* and consequential *impacts*....**

# 4 'Moments' in motion



1989  
CRT Act

# 5 'Moments' and differential change



# 6 Discourses of the 'moment'



**Planned– spontaneous**



Top down – Bottom-up (grassroots)



**Institutional - community**



Regulatory (capital) / resource-based (impetus)



**Endogenous – exogenous (and internal – external) drivers**



Radical – incremental (rhythm / velocity, in relation to timespan)



**Non selective - shock (trigger)**



Hegemonic – alternative (narrative of change)

# 7 Conclusions

Focus on '**moments**' instead of only the end results of path plasticity/creation

Notion of **differential plasticity**: One destination - three different evolutionary pathways (Salou, Cambrils, Vila-seca)

Role of spatial scale, historical embeddedness and political advocacy (...**geography matters**...)

Relation to **pre-lock-in conditions**: Recuperation – abandonment – reinforcement – correction – compensatory – resilience-building

Interest on **positive moments** as well as on critical shocks

Fit well with recent developments in urban social geography such as the **Cultural Political Economy** (CPE) approach to theorising pathways in urban development...



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# Thanks for your attention!

Salvador Anton Clavé ([Salvador.Anton@urv.cat](mailto:Salvador.Anton@urv.cat))

Julie Wilson ([Julie.Wilson@urv.cat](mailto:Julie.Wilson@urv.cat))

Cinta Sanz Ibañez ([Cinta.Sanzi@urv.cat](mailto:Cinta.Sanzi@urv.cat))

[www.globaltur.org](http://www.globaltur.org)

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Department of Geography



UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI

Research group on  
territorial analysis  
and tourism studies  
(GRATET)

